

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCCT-02 L-03 PRS-01 DRC-01 /106 W

----- 085678

R 111235Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

SECSTATE WASHDC 2827

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 ASMARA 0576

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJECT: TENNECO FOUR

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTERS WERE BROUGHT TO THE CONSULATE ON 10 JULY BY JAMES MINER OF THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL MISSION. THE LETTER DATED 29-6-74 WAS DELIVERED TO HIM ON 9 JULY BY IBRAHIM IL MORGENY. MINER WILL SUPPLY THE NAMES OF THE MISSIONS, NUMBER OF PERSONNEL, AND LOCATION OF MISSIONS AS REQUESTED IN LETTER OF 9-7-74. HE WILL NOT USE MORGENY AS A MESSENGER.

LETTER FOLLOW:

QUOTE

(LETTER NR.1)

NO. 445

ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - DATE 29.6.74

WE RECIVED YOUR UNDATED LETTER ON DATE 29.6.74 AT 4 P.M. BEFORE WE REPLY IN YOUR LETTER WE LIKE TO REPEAT OR WRITE YOUR QUESTIONS
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AND POINTS ONCE MORE AGAIN.

1) ORGANIZATION OF MEDICAL TEAM (2) HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE SICK AND HOW TO REACH THEM (3) WHAT QUARANTEE OF SAFE CONDUCT CAN BE GIVEN FOR THE TEAM IN ELF SIDE (4) DOSE THE THE LETTER OF PERMISSION THAT GIVEN TO AMERICAN EVANGELICAL MISSION COVERS THE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL MISSIONS IN ERITREA? (5) THE PERMISSION LETTER WAS SIGNED ONLY BY ONE ESCECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AND YOU ASK TO BE SIGNED BY ALL MEMBERS. (6) WOULD ELF ACCEPTS IF THE MISSION ASKED HELP FROM INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS. THESE SISC MAIN POINTS WERE WRITTEN IN YOUR LETTER. AND WE ANSWERED IT AS FOLLOWS:

(1) PLEASE ACCEPT OUR DEEP GRATITUDE BY STARTING TO PREPARE AND ORGANIZE THE MEDICAL TEAM.

(2) THERE ARE ABOUT 100,000 (HUNDRED THOUSAND). PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM CHOLERA AND ABOVE 300,000 (THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND) SUFFERS FROM MALARIA, AND THE WAS HOW TO REACH THEM IS ONLY WHEN YOU PREPARE EVERYTHING YOU SEND US LETTER AND WE WILL TELL YOU THE PLACE WHERE YOU COME BECAUSE EVERY ACTION FOR YOUR TEAM IS GOING TO TAKE FULL HELP FROM US.

(3) FULL GURANTEE IS GOING TO BE GIVEN FOR THE TEAM IN EVERY MANNER.

(4) OF COURSE IT WAS GIVEN THE PERMISSION FOR AMERICAN EVANGELICAL MISSION BECAUSE AT FIRST WE STOP THE MISSION FROM THE WORK WE DID NOT STOP THE OTHERS, BUT AS YOU WROTE FOR US IF THEY AFRAID AND WANT PERMISSION WE PERMIT FOR ALL MISSIONS TO CONTINUE THEIR MEDICAL AND RELIGIOUS WORK. IF THEY WANT A LETTER OF PERMISSION FOR EVERY MISSION WRITE FOR US THEIR NAMES OR YOU WILL TOLD US WHEN YOU COME WITH YOUR TEAM BUT TILL THAT TIME THEY COULD CONTINUE WORK.

(5) YES, IT WAS SIGNED ONLY BY ONE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER BUT FOR YOUR INFORMATION IN ELF ORGANIZATION THERE IS NOTHING DECIDED BY ONE BUT WRITTEN OR SIGNED BY ONE ONLY AFTER THEY AGREED ALL THE MEMBERS THEREFORE THAT WHY IT SIGNED BY ONE MEMBER EVEN IF YOU SEE ON THE LETTER OF RELEASE IT WAS SIGNED BY ONLY ONE MEMBER BUT THE DECISION WAS OF ALL. AND BY THIS THING, NOBODY FROM THE SIDE OF ELF IS GOING TO OPPOSE YOU IN ANY PLACE OF ERITREA AFTER HE KNOWS THAT YOU ARE MISSION WHOM THEY COME FOR THE HELP OF ERITREAN PEOPLE.

(6) THE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT EEXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACCEPTS YOUR IDEA OF ASKING AID FROM INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS NOBODY HATES AIDING FOR GOOD IN ANY MANNER. AND WE ARE SO GLAD ABOUT THE AID WHIC IT COMES FROM INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND ALL MISSIONS IN ERITREA
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N.B.

YOU SAID WE MADE A PRESS RELEASE IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR WISHES BUT WE HEARD ONLY THE RELEASES NEWS, BUT ABOUT OPOLIZATION ON THE DEATH OF THE NURSE AND CHOLERA DESEASE IN THE COUNTRY NEVER SAID IN THE NEWS.

THE TEAM WHICH IT CAME SHOULD HAVE TO PREPARE HER OWN FOOD IF IT IS NOT IT WILL FACE PROBLEM.

THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL MISSION SHOULD HAVE TO SEND REPLY ON THIS

LETTER IN DATE 3.7.74 E.C. AT "FEGRET"
ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
/SIGNATURE/

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00

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R 111235Z JUL 74
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
SECSTATE WASHDC 2828
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 ASMARA 0576

(LETTER NR. 2)

O 453

ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT DATE 4/7/74
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - TO AMERICAN EVANGELICAL MISSION

WE HAVE RECIVED YOUR UNDATED LETTER ON DATE 29.6.74 AND ON THE
SAME DAY WE WROTE A REPLY OF THAT LETTER AND WE GAVE IT TO THE MAN

WHO PICKS MRS. DEBBIE FROM THE FIELD TO MASSAWA. IF THIS PERSON GIVES
YOU THE LETTER WE ARE WAITING YOU FOR REPLY. WE ALSO WANTS FROM
YOU TO BE INFORMED THAT EVERYTHING HELP WHICH YOU WANTS IT FROM US,
IN SHORT YOU CAN REQUEST US BY EVERY HELP BY WRITE IT ON THE
REPLY OF THIS LETTER.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
/SIGNATURE/

ERITREA LIBERATION FRONT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE JULY 6, 1974
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I JUST RECEIVED YOUR LETTER N 453 DATED 4-7-74. I HAVE BEEN WAITING ANXIOUSLY FOR THE REPLY TO MY LETTER ASKING FOR PERMISSION FOR THE OTHER MISSIONS IN ERITREA TO WORK IN PEACE. I ALSO ASKED FOR YOUR FEELINGS TO HAVE THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS HELP IN ANY NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE. I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY REPLY. I REPEAT - I (BEGIN UNDERLINE) HAVE NOT (END UNDERLINE) RECEIVED ANY REPLY. I SENT A MESSENGER WITH MY LETTER AND I EXPECT A REPLY WHY HE DID NOT RETURN AND WHY YOU GAVE YOUR ANSWER TO THE OTHER MAN. HE APPARENTLY HAS NO INTEREST IN YOU CAUSE OR OURS. IF HE WAS INTERESTED, HE WOULD HAVE DELIVERED THE LETTER TO US. I ASK THAT YOU USE MY MESSENGERS FOR FURTHER COMMUNICATIONS.

WE HAVE ASKED ABOUT CHOLERA AND THE REPORTS ARE THAT THERE IS NO CHOLERA IN THE AREA.

WE ARE STILL ASKING FOR A PERMISSION LETTER FOR OUR MISSION AND LETTERS FOR EACH OF THE OTHER MISSIONS WORKING IN ERITREA, WHICH ARE SIGNED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THIS WILL BE OUR GUARANTEE THAT OFFICIAL PERMISSION IS GRANTED FOR US TO WORK IN PEACE.

SINCERELY

/SIGNED/ JAMES B. MINER

AMERICAN EVANGELICAL MISSION OF THE
ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(LETTER NO. 4)

ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT DATE 9/7/74
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO AMERICAN EVANGILICAL MISSION

WE ARE ANXCIOUS TO HEAR FROM THE MISSION THAT YOU DONST RECEIVED OUR LETTER WHICH WAS DELIVERED BY OUR MESSENGER IF IT IS TRUE HE HAVE DONE MANY BAD THINGS TO BOTH OF US. FINALLY WE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER AND IN REPLY FOR THAT WE PREPARE THE FOLLOWING -

1) YOU SAID THAT THERE IS NO CHOLERA DECEASE IN THE AREA IF YOU HAVE SUCH LIKE REPORTS DO AS
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WHAT YOUR REPORTERS GAVE YOU. BUT WE LIKE TO ASK THEM (THE MISSION) ABOUT THE DEASEASE WHICH KILLS MORE THAN 360 PEOPLE WHAT KIND OF DISEASE IS THAT IN THE AREA SHEEK, KEPER, MENSA. ZAZRE AND ADE SHUMOS FROM JUNE 27/3/74 TILL JULY.

2) WE WERE SENDING OUR PREVIOUS LETTER WITH ANOTHER MAN WE HAVE DONE THIS BECAUSE IN ORDER TO REACH YOU FAST. SECONDLY THERE IS NOBODY WHOM HE DELIEVER MESSENGER BETWEEN US, AND YOU, WE KNOW THERE IS ONE MAN BUT THIS MAN IS DAILY PAID WORKER AND WHENEVER WE WANT TO SEND HIM FOR YOU LETTER WE GAVE HIM TIP OR WE PERSUADE HIM. BUT FOR YOUR INFORMATION IF YOU WANT EVERYTHING TO REACH YOU BY THIS WAY O.K. WE ARE GOING TO PERSUADE HIM MORE. CONTINUING IN THIS IT IS THE MISSION RESPONSIBILITY ABOUT THE MESSENGER IT MEANS AS YOU WISH.

3) YOU SAID THAT OUR PERMISSION LETTER IS GOING TO BE SIGNED BY ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS BUT FOR YOUR INFORMATION WE HAVE ABOUT 19 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALL ARE SCATTERED ALL OVER ERITREA AND TO SOME FOREIGN COUNTRIES LIKE MIDDLE EAST BUT OUR PROGRAMME IS ONE IT IS NOT SCATTERED LIKE WHAT THE MEMBERS SCATTERED. THEREFORE, EVERYTHING IS MADE OUR SIGN ACCORDING TO THE PROGRAMME NOT ACCORDING TO WHAT EVER THEY LIKE AND THE MEMBER IN THIS AREA GAVE THE COPY OF YOUR PERMISSION LETTER TO ALL E.L.F. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FOR EVERY ADMISISTRATIVE UNIT AND IS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE ABOUT YOU IN EVERY ASPECTS. SO AMERICAN EVANGILICAL MISSION HAVE GOT ITS PERMISSION LETTER BUT FOR THE REST OF MISSIONS WE ARE READY TO GIVE THEM PERMISSION LETTERS AFTER WE KNOW THE FOLLOWING THINGS -

1) THEIR NAMES (2) NUMBER (3) THEIR PLACES
THEIR NEED WHY THEY WANT THIS PERMISSION.
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(4) WE ACCEPT THE AID WHICH THE MISSION IS GOING TO ASK FROM INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, AND WE ARE VERY HAPPY INDEED ABOUT THIS HELP FOR OUR PEOPLE
N.B. THEREFORE THE APOLOGIZATION ON THE DEATH OF MS ANNA

AND THIS HELP FROM RED CROSS AND ABOUT EVERY PERMISSION
SHOULD HAVE TO BE SAID IN B.B.C. RADIO AND V.O.A.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(SIGNATURE)

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TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
SECSTATE WASHDC 2829
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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(LETTER NO. 5)

ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE JULY 10, 1974

I WILL TRY TO ANSWER YOUR LETTER OF JULY9 AS FOLLOWS.
1. WE AGREE WITH YOU THAT CHOLERA WAS PRESENT IN APRIL MAY JUNE
AND UNTIL NOW IN SOME AREAS. BUT THE REPORT WAS THAT THERE ARE NOT
VERY MANY PEOPLE SICK RIGHT NOW. WE CAN NOT TRUST THE REPORT
COMPLETELY SO FOR THIS REASON I HAVE ASKED THE RED CROSS TO
INVESTIGATE THE SITUATION FOR US SINCE OUR ONLY TWO MEDICAL WORKERS
ARE NOW IN LANGUAGE SCHOOL IN ASMARA. THE RED CROSS WILL BE ARRIVING
IN AFABED ON JULY 11, IF THERE IS AN AIRPLANE AVAILABLE. FROM
THERE THEY WILL GO OUT TO YOU AND TREAT THE PEOPLE. THEY WILL BE
CARRYING A COPY OF THE PERMISSION LETTER THAT WAS GIVEN TO OUR
MISSION. PLEASE UNDERSTAND ALSO THAT EVEN THOUGH THE RED CROSS
DOES CARRY OUR LETTER, WE ARE NOT IN AGREEMENT WITH THEM ON SOME OF
THEIR BEHAVIOUS IN MORALS. THE ARE NOT MISSIONAIRES.
PLEASE SHOW THEM THE WAY AND KEEP THEM FROM HARM AND BE ASSURED

THAT IF MORE PEOPLE ARE NEEDED THEN THE MISSIONS WILL BE PROVIDING THE HELP.

2. I THINK IT IS STILL THE BEST WAY IF WE USE OUR MESSENGERS.

3. WE ACCEPT YOUR WORD THAT IT IS DIFFICULT FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO SIGN THE LETTER OF PERMISSION SO WE WILL ACCEPT
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THE LETTER THAT YOU WROTE.

THE OTHER MISSIONS NAMES ARE:

A. SOCIETY OF INTERDENOMINATIONAL MISSIONS (SIM) WHO WORK IN ASMARA, AFABED, DECAMERE.

B. MIDDLE EAST GENERAL MISSION WHO WORK IN ASMARA, TESSENAI, HAICOTO, AND SEVERAL OTHER PLACES WEST OF KEREN.

C. RED SEA MISSION TEAM WHO WORK IN ASMARA, MASSAWA, ASAD, EDD, THIO, BULUC BUIC IN THE DANAKIL.

D. SWEIDSH EVANGELICAL MISSION (EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF ERITREA) WHO WORK IN MANY PLACES IN ERITREA.

E. SWISS NILE MISSION WHO WORK IN ADI QUALA.

THEIR REASON FOR WANTING THE LETTERS IS SO THEY WILL KNOW THAT THEY ARE SAFE TO WORK IN PEACE.

4. WE DID GIVE A PRESS RELEASE GIVING YOUR APOLOGY FOR THE DEATH OF MISS ANNA ON BBC AND VOA. THE USIS WILL BE WORKING ON A PRESS RELEASE IN REGARDS TO THE RED CROSS HELP IN THE FUTURE. SINCE I WILL BE LEAVING NOW I HAVE TURNED EVERYTHING OVER TO OTHER PEOPLE TO CARE FOR THIS ISSUE.

/SIGNED/ JAMES B. MINER

UNQUOTE

SHERRY

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ASMARA00576
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740755/aaaabvfw.tel
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Reference: n/a
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